

Bilic that a checksum exists at the level of granularity reflected in the pending claims, namely at the packet fragment level.

As the foregoing illustrates, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every limitation of claim 3. Therefore, these references cannot render obvious claim 3 or claims 4-10, dependent thereon. For this reason, Applicants submit that claims 3-10 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 11 and 23 recite limitations similar to those discussed in conjunction with claim 3. Therefore claims 11 and 23 are allowable for at least the same reasons as allowable claim 3. Claims 12-17 and 24-27 depend on allowable claims 11 and 23, respectively, and are, therefore, also in condition for allowance.

In addition to the foregoing, dependent claim 5 recites the limitations of generating an address resolution table (ART) index for an address resolution table entry that stores a media access control (MAC) address and MAC layer attributes. None of the cited references teaches or suggests these limitations.

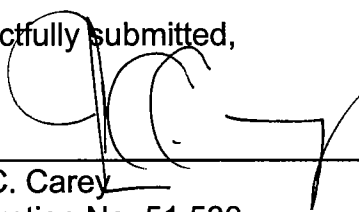
In the Office Action, the Examiner cites only Natanson for teaching these limitations and admits the other cited references do not disclose these teachings. Specifically, the Examiner cites a portion of Natanson where the MAC source address extracted from a received frame of data is used as an index to the address resolution table (see Natanson at column 14, lines 40-43). However, this part of Natanson (and no other part) does not disclose generating an address resolution table (ART) index for an address resolution table entry that stores a media access control (MAC) address and MAC layer attributes, as recited in claim 5.

As the foregoing illustrates, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests each and every limitation of claim 5. For these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 5 and claims 6-10, dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance independent of the reasons set forth above in conjunction with allowable claim 3.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicants believe that they have overcome all of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed on February 13, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 13, 2009, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JC Carey', is written over a horizontal line.

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